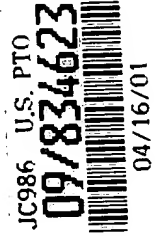


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: )  
)  
Hiroyuki SUZUKI, et al. )  
) Group Art Unit: To be Assigned  
Application No.: To be Assigned )  
) Examiner: To be Assigned  
Filed: April 16, 2001 )  
)  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
- 1g. ☐ List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).

2. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

*(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)*

- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
- 2b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 2d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By: 

James D. Halsey, Jr.  
Registration No. 22,729

Dated: April 16, 2001  
700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

様式A

PRIOR ART INFORMATION LIST

Your case No.	
Our case No.	FUP-0797P-US

Inventor, Patent Number, Country Author, Title, Name of Document	Publication Date (day/month/year)	Concise Explanation of the Relevance (indication of page, column, line figure of the relevant portion)
1. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10257310A	Publication Date (25/09/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.
2. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10336441A	Publication Date (18/12/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.
3. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.03046461A	Publication Date (27/02/1991)	Abstract is enclosed.
4. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.08139918A	Publication Date (31/05/1996)	Abstract is enclosed.
5. U.S.Patent No.5,815,287	Publication Date (29/09/1998)	Official Gazette is enclosed.
6. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10302062A	Publication Date (13/11/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.
7. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.08051537A	Publication Date (20/02/1996)	Abstract is enclosed.
8. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10228536A	Publication Date (25/08/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.
9. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10173916A	Publication Date (26/06/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.

Your case No.	
Our case No.	FUP-0797P-US

Inventor, Patent Number, Country Author, Title, Name of Document	Publication Date (day/month/year)	Concise Explanation of the Relevance (indication of page, column, line figure of the relevant portion)
10. Japanese patent application laid-open publication No.10336443A	Publication Date (18/12/1998)	Abstract is enclosed.